



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4418

by Rep. Chris Miller

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-3.10

105 ILCS 5/27-22

from Ch. 122, par. 27-22

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Requires course content in civics education to include a comparative study and discussion of certain political ideologies, including communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to the founding of the United States. Sets forth requirements concerning the content. Effective immediately.

LRB102 22324 CMG 31461 b

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections  
5 27-3.10 and 27-22 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-3.10)

7 Sec. 27-3.10. Elementary school civics course of study. In  
8 addition to the instruction required to be provided under  
9 Section 27-3 of this Code, every public elementary school  
10 shall include in its 6th, 7th, or 8th grade curriculum,  
11 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, at least one  
12 semester of civics education, which shall help young people  
13 acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and attitudes  
14 that will prepare them to be competent and responsible  
15 citizens throughout their lives. Civics education course  
16 content shall focus on government institutions, the discussion  
17 of current and societal issues, service learning, and  
18 simulations of the democratic process. Civics education course  
19 content shall include a comparative study and discussion of  
20 certain political ideologies, including communism and  
21 totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom  
22 and democracy that are essential to the founding of the United  
23 States. The comparative study and discussion shall be

1 accurate, relevant, and accessible to promote the  
2 understanding of such political ideologies. Civics education  
3 course content shall include the use of oral history resources  
4 from diverse individuals, including those individuals who (i)  
5 demonstrate civic-minded qualities, (ii) are victims of the  
6 political ideologies of communism and totalitarianism, and  
7 (iii) are able to compare the political ideologies of  
8 communism and totalitarianism with the political ideology of  
9 the United States. Civics education in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade  
10 shall be in accordance with Illinois Learning Standards for  
11 social science. Additionally, school districts may consult  
12 with civics education stakeholders, deemed appropriate by the  
13 State Board of Education, with regard to civics education  
14 curriculum for 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. School districts may  
15 utilize private funding available for the purposes of offering  
16 civics education.

17 (Source: P.A. 101-254, eff. 7-1-20.)

18 (105 ILCS 5/27-22) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-22)

19 (Text of Section from P.A. 101-654, Article 50, Section  
20 50-5)

21 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

22 (a) (Blank).

23 (b) (Blank).

24 (c) (Blank).

25 (d) (Blank).

1 (e) Through the 2023-2024 school year, as a prerequisite  
2 to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the  
3 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements,  
4 successfully complete all of the following courses:

5 (1) Four years of language arts.

6 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of  
7 which must be English and the other of which may be English  
8 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive  
9 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other  
10 graduation requirements.

11 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be  
12 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and  
13 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science  
14 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry  
15 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,  
16 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education  
17 course that prepares a student for a career readiness  
18 path.

19 (4) Two years of science.

20 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one  
21 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
22 of history of the United States and American government  
23 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
24 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at  
25 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young  
26 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and

1 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and  
2 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course  
3 content shall focus on government institutions, the  
4 discussion of current and controversial issues, service  
5 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.  
6 Civics course content shall include a comparative study  
7 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including  
8 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the  
9 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to  
10 the founding of the United States. The comparative study  
11 and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible  
12 to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.  
13 Civics course content shall include the use of oral  
14 history resources from diverse individuals, including  
15 those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded  
16 qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of  
17 communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to  
18 compare the political ideologies of communism and  
19 totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United  
20 States. School districts may utilize private funding  
21 available for the purposes of offering civics education.

22 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)  
23 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
24 American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

25 (e-5) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, as a  
26 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil

1 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course  
2 requirements, successfully complete all of the following  
3 courses:

4 (1) Four years of language arts.

5 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of  
6 which must be English and the other of which may be English  
7 or any other subject. If applicable, writing-intensive  
8 courses may be counted toward the fulfillment of other  
9 graduation requirements.

10 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be  
11 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and  
12 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science  
13 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry  
14 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,  
15 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education  
16 course that prepares a student for a career readiness  
17 path.

18 (4) Two years of laboratory science.

19 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one  
20 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
21 of history of the United States and American government  
22 and at least one semester must be civics, which shall help  
23 young people acquire and learn to use the skills,  
24 knowledge, and attitudes that will prepare them to be  
25 competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives.  
26 Civics course content shall focus on government

1 institutions, the discussion of current and controversial  
2 issues, service learning, and simulations of the  
3 democratic process. Civics course content shall include a  
4 comparative study and discussion of certain political  
5 ideologies, including communism and totalitarianism, that  
6 conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy that  
7 are essential to the founding of the United States. The  
8 comparative study and discussion shall be accurate,  
9 relevant, and accessible to promote the understanding of  
10 such political ideologies. Civics course content shall  
11 include the use of oral history resources from diverse  
12 individuals, including those individuals who (i)  
13 demonstrate civic-minded qualities, (ii) are victims of  
14 the political ideologies of communism and totalitarianism,  
15 and (iii) are able to compare the political ideologies of  
16 communism and totalitarianism with the political ideology  
17 of the United States. School districts may utilize private  
18 funding available for the purposes of offering civics  
19 education.

20 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)  
21 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
22 American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

23 (e-10) Beginning with the 2028-2029 school year, as a  
24 prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil  
25 entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course  
26 requirements, successfully complete 2 years of foreign

1 language courses, which may include American Sign Language. A  
2 pupil may choose a third year of foreign language to satisfy  
3 the requirement under paragraph (6) of subsection (e-5).

4 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform  
5 school districts of standards for writing-intensive  
6 coursework.

7 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement  
8 computer science course to high school students, then the  
9 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a  
10 high school mathematics course and must denote on the  
11 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer  
12 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative  
13 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of  
14 subsection (e) of this Section.

15 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils  
16 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior  
17 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of  
18 study is determined by an individualized education program.

19 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not  
20 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school  
21 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities  
22 whose course of study is determined by an individualized  
23 education program.

24 Subsection (e-5) does not apply to pupils entering the 9th  
25 grade in the 2023-2024 school year or a prior school year or to  
26 students with disabilities whose course of study is determined



1 by an individualized education program. Subsection (e-10) does  
2 not apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2027-2028  
3 school year or a prior school year or to students with  
4 disabilities whose course of study is determined by an  
5 individualized education program.

6 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
7 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the  
8 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

9 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify  
10 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in  
11 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due  
12 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
13 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

14 (Source: P.A. 100-443, eff. 8-25-17; 101-464, eff. 1-1-20;  
15 101-643, eff. 6-18-20; 101-654, Article 50, Section 50-5, eff.  
16 3-8-21.)

17 (Text of Section from P.A. 101-654, Article 60, Section  
18 60-5)

19 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

20 (a) (Blank).

21 (b) (Blank).

22 (c) (Blank).

23 (d) (Blank).

24 (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,  
25 each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other

1 course requirements, successfully complete all of the  
2 following courses:

3 (1) Four years of language arts.

4 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of  
5 which must be English and the other of which may be English  
6 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive  
7 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other  
8 graduation requirements.

9 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be  
10 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and  
11 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science  
12 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry  
13 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,  
14 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education  
15 course that prepares a student for a career readiness  
16 path.

17 (3.5) For pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
18 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter, one  
19 year of a course that includes intensive instruction in  
20 computer literacy, which may be English, social studies,  
21 or any other subject and which may be counted toward the  
22 fulfillment of other graduation requirements.

23 (4) Two years of science.

24 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one  
25 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
26 of history of the United States and American government

1 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
2 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at  
3 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young  
4 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and  
5 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and  
6 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course  
7 content shall focus on government institutions, the  
8 discussion of current and controversial issues, service  
9 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.  
10 Civics course content shall include a comparative study  
11 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including  
12 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the  
13 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to  
14 the founding of the United States. The comparative study  
15 and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible  
16 to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.  
17 Civics course content shall include the use of oral  
18 history resources from diverse individuals, including  
19 those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded  
20 qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of  
21 communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to  
22 compare the political ideologies of communism and  
23 totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United  
24 States. School districts may utilize private funding  
25 available for the purposes of offering civics education.

26 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)

1 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
2 American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

3 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform  
4 school districts of standards for writing-intensive  
5 coursework.

6 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement  
7 computer science course to high school students, then the  
8 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a  
9 high school mathematics course and must denote on the  
10 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer  
11 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative  
12 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of  
13 subsection (e) of this Section.

14 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils  
15 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior  
16 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of  
17 study is determined by an individualized education program.

18 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not  
19 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school  
20 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities  
21 whose course of study is determined by an individualized  
22 education program.

23 This amendatory Act of the 101st General Assembly does not  
24 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2021-2022 school  
25 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities  
26 whose course of study is determined by an individualized

1 education program.

2 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
3 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the  
4 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

5 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify  
6 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in  
7 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due  
8 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
9 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

10 (Source: P.A. 100-443, eff. 8-25-17; 101-464, eff. 1-1-20;  
11 101-643, eff. 6-18-20; 101-654, Article 60, Section 60-5, eff.  
12 3-8-21.)

13 (Text of Section from P.A. 102-366)

14 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

15 (a) (Blank).

16 (b) (Blank).

17 (c) (Blank).

18 (d) (Blank).

19 (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,  
20 each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other  
21 course requirements, successfully complete all of the  
22 following courses:

23 (1) Four years of language arts.

24 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of  
25 which must be English and the other of which may be English

1 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive  
2 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other  
3 graduation requirements.

4 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be  
5 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and  
6 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science  
7 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry  
8 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,  
9 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education  
10 course that prepares a student for a career readiness  
11 path.

12 (4) Two years of science.

13 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one  
14 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
15 of history of the United States and American government  
16 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
17 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at  
18 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young  
19 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and  
20 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and  
21 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course  
22 content shall focus on government institutions, the  
23 discussion of current and controversial issues, service  
24 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.  
25 Civics course content shall include a comparative study  
26 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including

1       communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the  
2       principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to  
3       the founding of the United States. The comparative study  
4       and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible  
5       to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.  
6       Civics course content shall include the use of oral  
7       history resources from diverse individuals, including  
8       those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded  
9       qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of  
10       communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to  
11       compare the political ideologies of communism and  
12       totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United  
13       States. School districts may utilize private funding  
14       available for the purposes of offering civics education.  
15       Beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
16       2021-2022 school year and each school year thereafter, one  
17       semester, or part of one semester, may include a financial  
18       literacy course.

19           (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)  
20       foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
21       American Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

22           (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform  
23       school districts of standards for writing-intensive  
24       coursework.

25           (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement  
26       computer science course to high school students, then the

1 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a  
2 high school mathematics course and must denote on the  
3 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer  
4 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative  
5 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of  
6 subsection (e) of this Section.

7 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils  
8 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior  
9 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of  
10 study is determined by an individualized education program.

11 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not  
12 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school  
13 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities  
14 whose course of study is determined by an individualized  
15 education program.

16 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
17 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the  
18 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

19 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify  
20 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in  
21 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due  
22 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
23 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

24 (Source: P.A. 101-464, eff. 1-1-20; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20;  
25 102-366, eff. 8-13-21.)



(Text of Section from P.A. 102-551)

Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

(a) (Blank).

(b) (Blank).

(c) (Blank).

(d) (Blank).

(e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully complete all of the following courses:

(1) Four years of language arts.

(2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of which must be English and the other of which may be English or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other graduation requirements.

(3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science course. A mathematics course that includes geometry content may be offered as an integrated, applied, interdisciplinary, or career and technical education course that prepares a student for a career readiness path.

(4) Two years of science.

(5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one

1 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
2 of history of the United States and American government  
3 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
4 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at  
5 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young  
6 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and  
7 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and  
8 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course  
9 content shall focus on government institutions, the  
10 discussion of current and controversial issues, service  
11 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.  
12 Civics course content shall include a comparative study  
13 and discussion of certain political ideologies, including  
14 communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the  
15 principles of freedom and democracy that are essential to  
16 the founding of the United States. The comparative study  
17 and discussion shall be accurate, relevant, and accessible  
18 to promote the understanding of such political ideologies.  
19 Civics course content shall include the use of oral  
20 history resources from diverse individuals, including  
21 those individuals who (i) demonstrate civic-minded  
22 qualities, (ii) are victims of the political ideologies of  
23 communism and totalitarianism, and (iii) are able to  
24 compare the political ideologies of communism and  
25 totalitarianism with the political ideology of the United  
26 States. School districts may utilize private funding

1 available for the purposes of offering civics education.

2 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)  
3 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
4 American Sign Language, (D) vocational education, or (E)  
5 forensic speech (speech and debate). A forensic speech  
6 course used to satisfy the course requirement under  
7 subdivision (1) may not be used to satisfy the course  
8 requirement under this subdivision (6).

9 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform  
10 school districts of standards for writing-intensive  
11 coursework.

12 (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement  
13 computer science course to high school students, then the  
14 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a  
15 high school mathematics course and must denote on the  
16 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer  
17 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative  
18 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of  
19 subsection (e) of this Section.

20 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils  
21 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior  
22 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of  
23 study is determined by an individualized education program.

24 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not  
25 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school  
26 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities

1 whose course of study is determined by an individualized  
2 education program.

3 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
4 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the  
5 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

6 (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify  
7 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in  
8 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due  
9 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
10 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

11 (Source: P.A. 101-464, eff. 1-1-20; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20;  
12 102-551, eff. 1-1-22.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
14 becoming law.